

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert O. Work
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

The Honorable Stephanie O'Sullivan
Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Secretary Work, Director O'Sullivan:

We applaud your recent decision to establish the new Joint Interagency Combined Space Operations Center (JICSpOC). According to the DoD press release on the JICSpOC's establishment, it will "improve processes and procedures, ensuring data fusion among DoD, intelligence community, interagency, allied and commercial space entities.... create unity of effort and facilitate information sharing across the national security space enterprise.... [and improve our] ability to detect, characterize, and attribute irresponsible or threatening space activity in a timely manner." This enhanced collaboration between the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense is a critical and much-needed step toward increased integration of our national security assets across these government entities.

Given the increasing space threats our nation faces, the need for these new capabilities could not be more urgent. We encourage you to make it your highest priority to develop and test these capabilities so that they will be delivered to the warfighter as quickly and affordably as possible. To this end, we strongly support utilizing rapid acquisition authority as well as innovative commercial technology to fulfill this critical need.

Much work remains to address current gaps in space situational awareness as well as ensure space superiority in an increasingly contested, degraded, and operationally limited domain. Our space warriors must be able to delegate routine spaceflight safety and catalog maintenance tasks, and to instead focus their attention on rapidly identifying and responding to emerging threats. We must have a flexible and adaptive system that enables near real-time decision making and action. We need a modern system that can take full advantage of a robust sensor network, seamlessly integrating nontraditional sensors, future Space Fence data, and the other components of our future sensor network.

We cannot think of a better place for this new mission than Schriever Air Force Base, an unparalleled center of gravity for our nation's space, cyber, and missile defense missions. We are confident that Colorado offers significant advantages in cost savings and other efficiencies, as well as a talented space workforce, community support and a quality of life second to none.

We are aware the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community recently announced they were contributing \$16 million to establish the JICSpOC. We know this effort will require significant additional resources in the future and we stand ready to help ensure adequate resources are made available.

As the JICSpOC progresses from concept to capability, we look forward to continuing to work together to sustain our superiority in space, which must include being able to better observe, assess, and react to future space threats. We request that you keep us closely informed of your progress.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator

Cc: Admiral Cecil D. Haney, USN
Commander, United States Strategic Command

General John E. Hyten, USAF
Commander, Air Force Space Command

Ms. Betty Sapp
Director, National Reconnaissance Office